

Nearly 100 of my colleagues have joined together by cosponsoring H. Res. 60 to ask the State Department to heed a federal court order and remove Iran's largest opposition group called the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, PMOI/MEK, from the U.S. list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations, FTO.

Because the U.S. needs to use its influence to protect Iranian dissidents fighting for democracy, Iran is using the U.S. terrorist designation to attack MEK leaders opposed to their rule. As long as the MEK is listed as a foreign terrorist organization, thousands of its members living in Camp Ashraf, Iraq are subject to further brutality by the Iraqi government. The longer we wait to remove the MEK from this list, the more we put Ashraf residents and fighters for democracy at risk.

STATEMENT CONGRATULATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, October 30 marks the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Republic of China, which is now on Taiwan.

Just as the United States is considered a cultural melting pot, the Republic of China represents a society that has found success in embracing openness and respect for all citizens. As closely related and longstanding trade partners, the United States and Taiwan have a rich history of cooperating to create economic growth.

Since passage of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States has been very supportive of the Republic of China, and, in turn, Taiwan has remained a friendly and faithful ally to the United States. America's support for the freedom, security, and stability of Taiwan stems from our shared foundation in individual liberty and from our mutual interest in defending peace and prosperity in the Pacific Rim region and throughout the world.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I am committed to enhancing and strengthening U.S.-Taiwan relations, and ensuring that the Republic of China continues to thrive as a free and democratic country. I am working with my colleagues to ensure that Taiwan has the capacity to defend itself from potentially hostile nations, and to perpetuate the democratic ideals that inspired its creation.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Republic of China on completing its first century as a nation, and in renewing America's commitment to our common defense.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESS LEADS BY EXAMPLE ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Congress Leads by Example Act of 2011, to subject Congress and the rest of the legislative branch to the federal workplace

laws and standards that protect individuals in the private sector and the executive branch. The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, CAA, was an important first step in making the legislative branch accountable to its employees, but it did not finish the job. While the CAA did bring the legislative branch under thirteen major civil rights, labor, and workplace safety and health laws, it exempted the legislative branch from important notice and training provisions, and altogether omitted important substantive and administrative provisions.

The Congress Leads by Example Act of 2011 is a follow-up to my 2010 investigation of Capitol Visitor Center, CVC, staff complaints and the recommendations from the Office of Compliance, OOC, which revealed a gap in authority to enforce the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, OSHA, provisions against the legislative branch. Last year, as chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, I held a hearing examining claims by the OOC of an estimated 6,300 safety hazards in the U.S. Capitol complex, as well as complaints by CVC guides that they were compelled to work in uniforms inappropriate for outdoor work in the summer and winter, and that they had limits on their water consumption. Our hearing demonstrated that many of the safety hazards had been resolved, and the Architect of the Capitol assured us that they continue to correct the outstanding hazards with due speed. Eventually, the formation of a union local by CVC guides led to specific improvements in uniform and water consumption practices and policies.

In the 2010 report, Recommendations for Improvements to the Congressional Accountability Act, the OOC, which was created by the CAA, identified additional provisions of federal workplace laws and standards that should be applicable to the legislative branch, including laws that grant the OOC General Counsel subpoena power, provide whistleblowers with protection from retaliation, and require the maintenance of employment records. In the 2011 report, State of the Congressional Workplace, the OOC presents the successes and shortcomings of the CAA by tracking the trends in legislative branch employee complaints and workplace safety hazards in fiscal year 2010. My bill takes into account the OOC reports, and seeks both to apply the standard of fairness to employees in the legislative branch that Congress requires for other employees and to provide a safer work environment for Capitol Hill employees by bringing the legislative branch further in line with what is legally required of private sector employers and the executive branch.

As Congress searches for ways to trim the federal budget, it would be timely to provide whistleblower protections to legislative branch employees so that they can report misuse of federal funds and other legal violations without fear of retaliation. My bill provides general whistleblower protections, also championed by Senators CHUCK GRASSLEY and CLAIRE MCCASKILL. My bill also makes applicable additional provisions under OSHA, including providing subpoena authority to the OOC to conduct inspections and investigations into OSHA violations and requiring the posting of notices in workplaces detailing employee rights to a safe workplace under OSHA.

This bill also furthers the CAA's mission to prevent discrimination by prohibiting adverse

employment decisions on the basis of an employee's wage garnishment or involvement in bankruptcy proceedings pursuant to the Consumer Credit Protection Act, CCPA, and Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code. The bill also requires employers to provide their employees with notice of their rights and remedies under the CAA anti-discrimination provisions through the placement of signage in offices highlighting relevant anti-discrimination laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. The bill also requires legislative branch offices to provide training to employees about their CAA rights and remedies. Adding the CCPA and bankruptcy provisions will deter economic discrimination, while the notice and training provisions will empower legislative branch employees with the full knowledge of their rights.

Finally, the bill bolsters the CAA's record-keeping requirements. It extends to the legislative branch the obligation to maintain accurate records of safety information and employee injuries, as required by OSHA, as well as the employee records necessary to administer the anti-discrimination laws. The enhanced recordkeeping requirements will facilitate better enforcement of laws.

On the eve of the CAA's passage, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE may have best captured the intent of Congress and the will of the people when she remarked, "Congress simply cannot continue to live above the law and call itself a body that is 'representative' of the America we live in today. After all, what kind of message does Congress send to Americans when it sets itself above the law? What kind of message does Congress send to America when it believes it is beholden to different standards? And how can Congress claim to pass laws in the best interest of the American people if Congress refuses to abide by those very same laws . . . Congress should be the very last institution in America to exempt itself from living under the nation's laws. Rather, Congress should always be the very first institution to be covered by the laws of the land, especially as the body legislating such laws." By passing this bill and heeding this wise call to action, Congress will help restore the faith of the public in this institution by redoubling our efforts to exercise leadership by example. I urge bipartisan support of this important measure.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here in America, we can walk in to our kitchen and turn on the faucet in order to get a drink of water. This routine has become so natural, that sometimes we forget how blessed our country is. Americans are lucky to be able to drink water without the fear that it could make them ill or put their lives in jeopardy. One young man in my congressional district became aware of how fortunate he was, and wanted to find a way to make a difference in the lives of those who did not have access to clean water. This young man, Nico Kroeker, began a business in October 2010 at 17 years old, in order to benefit people who are suffering from unsanitary water conditions.

Mr. Kroeker calls his project The Ripple Effect, and sells water bottles from his Web site in order to raise funds. Keeping nothing for himself, Mr. Kroeker takes all of the profits and puts them toward purchasing more water bottles to sell. A portion of the profits go to Living Water International, an organization that builds wells in villages where water is either unsanitary or difficult to obtain. Living Water International strategically places these wells near schools so women are able to get an education rather than travel long distances for unclean water.

Now wells do not last forever, which can be a problem with this type of program, but Living Water International has worked to find a solution to this. The organization works alongside the villagers teaching them how to build and maintain the wells. By doing this, the villagers are able to maintain the wells and fix them even after Living Water International has left.

Mr. Kroeker really liked how the fact that the organization did not just build the well and leave, but rather taught the villagers so they could become independent. Even though he is leaving for college in the fall of 2011, Mr. Kroeker still plans on managing his company from Blinn College in College Station, Texas. His company operates through a Web site, which will make it very convenient for Mr. Kroeker to balance his school work and continue to provide clean and safe water to people in need.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud this young Texan for taking action and making a difference in the lives of others.

And that's just the way it is.

THE BREAST DENSITY AND MAMMOGRAPHY REPORTING ACT OF 2011

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2011, which will provide women and their health care providers with the information they need about identifying breast cancer risks and help to detect this deadly disease at the earliest possible stage.

One in eight women in the United States will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. This year alone, more than 230,000 Americans will be diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 40,000 women will die of the disease. We know that there are risk factors, things that increase an individual's chance of developing for breast cancer—gender, family history of cancer, certain genetic mutations, and numerous others.

Among them is dense breast tissue. Women with more dense breast tissue have a relative risk of developing breast cancer that is four or more times higher than individuals with less dense breast tissue. And dense breast tissue may also make it more difficult to identify potential problems on mammograms.

This bill seeks simply to update the information that women and their health care providers receive after a mammogram. By including information on an individual's breast density in these reports, we can raise awareness

among both patients and their physicians. We can help ensure appropriate screening, and help make sure that more women are diagnosed at an earlier stage of cancer.

This legislation has been endorsed by several national organizations, whose letters of support I hereby submit for the record. And it is based on strong legislation already enacted in my home state of Connecticut. But women should not live or die because of geography—we owe it to women across the country to ensure that they have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about their health. This legislation will help the women in our lives and their health care professionals access critical, potentially life-saving information, and I urge my colleagues to support our efforts.

OCTOBER 3, 2011.

Hon. ROSA L. DeLAURO,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DeLAURO: On behalf of the Board of Directors of Are You Dense, Inc., we are pleased to support the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2011. The grassroots breast density information effort began in Connecticut in 2004 when I was diagnosed with an advanced stage breast cancer after a decade of "normal" mammograms. When I questioned my breast surgeon why my cancer was detected at such an advanced stage, since I received a "normal" mammography report a few months earlier, her response was that I have dense breast tissue. This was the first time that I was informed about this critically important aspect of my breast health and what dense breast tissue meant to me for access to an Early Cancer Diagnosis. I began working with Connecticut State Senators Joan Hartley and Joseph Crisco and, with their unwavering support for Early Detection for women with dense breast tissue, Connecticut established itself as a leader in state legislation for breast density notification and expanded insurance coverage for women with dense breast tissue. I am so proud that you are leading the federal efforts to change the outcome of an advanced cancer to an early stage cancer for women across the country with dense breast tissue.

Research for more than a decade demonstrates that women with dense breast tissue are at increased risk of breast cancer and have only a 40% chance of having their cancer detected by mammography alone. As density increases, the sensitivity of mammogram to "see" cancer decreases. Breast density is one of the strongest predictors of the failure of mammography screening to detect cancer.

A Harris Poll found that less than 1 in ten women team about their breast density from their health care providers and ninety-five percent of women do not know their breast density even though it is one of the highest risk factors for breast cancer. The Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2011 will correct this fatal flaw in the Early Detection of Breast Cancer by standardizing the communication of breast density to the patient across our country. Breast Density notification will help bring about a new era in which women, in conjunction with their doctors, can make fully informed choices about their breast screening and personal surveillance.

Thank you for giving Are You Dense, Inc. the opportunity to support this important and timely legislation.

Sincerely,

NANCY M. CAPPELLO, PH.D.,
President and Founder,
Are You Dense, Inc.

OCTOBER 3, 2011.

Hon. ROSA L. DeLAURO,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DeLAURO, the Black Women's Health Imperative is very pleased to support the introduction of the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2011.

Women with dense breast tissue are more likely to get breast cancer, it is more likely to be aggressive, and very likely to be missed on a mammogram. The Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2011 corrects a fatal flaw in the post-mammography patient communication. The inclusion of breast density information in the lay letter, sent from radiologist to patient, recognizes the importance of patient notification of this risk factor. Without the provision for this notification, the opportunity for an informed and educated patient is tragically compromised. This legislation will ensure that the 40% of women with dense breasts, armed with critical information about their own physiology, can have equal access to early detection of breast cancer.

Breast Density notification will help bring about a new era in which women, in conjunction with their doctors, can make fully informed choices about breast screening and surveillance.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to support this important and timely legislation.

Sincerely,

ELEANOR HINTON HOYT,
President & CEO,
Black Women's Health Imperative.

OCTOBER 3, 2011.

Hon. ROSA L. DeLAURO,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DeLAURO, Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc. is pleased to support the introduction of the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2011. It is in the interest of public safety to enact a standard that requires doctors to inform women of their breast density, its inherent risk factor, and apprise them of the limitations of mammography in dense breasts. Without this simple notification, women with dense breast tissue, unaware of this critical piece of their own physiology, and kept in the dark about density's inherent risk factor, can hardly be considered informed participants in their own health surveillance.

Women with dense breasts are more likely to get breast cancer, it is more likely to be aggressive, and is more likely to be missed on a mammogram. Over the past decade, peer reviewed scientific studies have demonstrated that mammography misses breast cancer at least 40% of the time in women with dense breasts. The inclusion of breast density information in the lay letter, sent from radiologist to patient, recognizes the fundamental right of a patient to be aware of her own density, her personal risk factor, and supplemental screening tools which may be appropriate.

We strongly support this timely legislation which will prove life saving for so many American women.

Sincerely,

JOANN PUSHKIN,
Director of Government Relations,
Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
BREAST CARE PROFESSIONALS,
Houston, TX.

DEAR CONGRESS: The American Association of Breast Care Professionals (AABCP) in collaboration with the AABCP Foundation, strongly supports all legislation regarding